

superintendent out there that's done a very good job of educating his community, again it is Crawford because they are probably the most hard hit by this particular circumstance, perhaps, of any community in the state. He's done a good job of going out to people in his town, and the rural people, and telling them how this formula works and try to explain it to people. I think that's had a lot of do with bringing people closer to the point where they are willing to accept some compromises and try to look at this whole broad issue in the total historical context and the financial questions that arise. So I would urge you to adopt the committee amendments. It may make Senator Withem's life a little more difficult. But it isn't going to go away, and I don't know that by doing, voting with him you're going to make his life considerably easy. So I think we ought to put the committee amendments on. Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Scofield. Senator Withem, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Labedz, members of the body, a couple of things I'd like to clarify from what Senator Lamb was saying. He basically chose to get into the merits of the argument as I did when I explained the bill I guess. So I will take him up on that. I think in a lot of ways, and I hate to say this, I think in a lot of ways his statements prove what the proponents of reorganization have said for many years, and these are blunt, very harsh statements. Those people that oppose the reorganization and want to continue the status quo as we have it are more interested in maintaining lower property taxes than they are educating kids. That is the only conclusion that I can gain. I've spent a lot of time on this issue. It is a difficult issue to understand. The conclusion that I have come to is that there are kids in this state whose very education, next fall, is in jeopardy. The problems with 182 and the current formula, from the views of those who live in Class I districts, is it makes them come closer to paying their fair share of taxes. Senator Lamb would say he would prefer to have no bill passed and put those kid's education in jeopardy rather than put in statute a measure that would have those people continue to pay their fair share of taxes. I honestly think that is the point where we are, and I honestly think that is the way it should be voted. The statute, let me read what the statute says, 79-4100, nonresident high school education, denial of admission to nonresident pupils, grounds, notice required. Any public high school district may refuse admission to any or all nonresident pupils if the amount of nonresident high school